



# Instructional Technology Newsline

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education









Volume 3, Number 6  
April, 2002

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<http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/instrtech/newsletters>

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## Instructional Technology Update

*Caution: Road construction ahead! Instructional Technology has been working furiously on updating the state's education technology plan, working on the state's consolidated application for the No Child Left Behind programs, and gearing up for the Title II, D program, Enhancing Education Through Technology. Note that Instructional Technology and Federal Grants Management sections will co-administer Title II, D. [See details below.] As Department staffs are collaborating so, too, will district technology and Title personnel need to work together. With everyone's primary goal set for high student achievement, technology specialists need to help Title staffs integrate technology throughout the programs as appropriate. The same is true for all other programs, whether state-funded or district-funded. We need to help others see that technology is an effective tool that should be embedded in all aspects of teaching and learning, and not considered as a separate program. Here's to building roads for effective long-term partnerships. –Deb*

### FY02 Instructional Technology Grant Programs

#### STATE EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY GRANTS

FY 2002 -- By now, everyone should be aware that supplemental funds were not secured for the VIDEO program, and that grant recipients will only receive 25% of their approved state grant amounts. Since 20% was distributed upon final approval of the VIDEO application, only another 5% is available as a final payment. When completing the FER, **funds expended beyond the 25% should be listed as district match**. Final expenditure reports (FERs) for all state-funded programs are due May 15. TAG/VIDEO FERS are to be submitted online; the IDL FER is a paper form (page 54 in the red grants manual).

FY 2003 -- State technology funds experienced another cut, recently, of over \$2 million. If the budget were to pass now, only TAG and second-year IDL grants would be available – and cut by 10-20%. Note that the FY03 online TAG application will still use the current funding formula. Once appropriations are set, districts will be notified regarding the amount or percentage of funds to be withheld. TAG applications will be available online, May 1-September 15. Grants will have July 1, 2002, “substantially approved” dates. Districts may start encumbering funds on July 1, but are cautioned to spend no more than 70% of their allocation. Note that, for this year only, **districts may encumber FY03 TAG funds prior to July 1 if necessary to participate in the state contract program for Internet filtering**. IDL applications for a second year of implementation are due June 15.

#### FEDERAL EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY GRANTS

FY 2002 -- TLCF projects are funded through September 30; however, recipients can submit FERS prior to September if funds have been expended. FERS are to be submitted online and are due no later than October 15.

FY 2003 -- The Title II, D final appropriation won't be known until May; however, Missouri expects to receive approximately \$9 million. 95% of the funds flow through to districts. Half of the flow-through funds will be distributed to districts via a formula that mirrors the Title I distribution. The remaining funds are to be distributed to high-need schools via competitive grants.

**Formula Grants** – The formula is the same used for Title I -- if your district receives 5% of the Title I funds, it will receive 5% of the Title II, D funds. The formula grants will be administered by DESE's Federal Grants Management (FGM) section, with the application embedded in the federal consolidated application. FGM will approve applications that indicate CIPA compliance and detail budgets that meet the intended program purposes and earmark 25% of expenditures for technology professional development. Meanwhile, the Instructional Technology section will be responsible in seeing that districts have technology integrated into their consolidated plans and have new technology plans that promote the federal technology goals. [See Education

Technology Planning section below.] When a district completes a Title II, D application it will be directed to the district's TAG application. The TAG application will now require districts to describe their integrated technology budgets – with state, federal, and local technology budgets. Both the TAG application and the FGM application have to be approved before Title II, D funds will be disbursed to a district. Plan to attend one of the workshops listed below for more information.

## FGM/Title II, D

### 2002 Spring Workshops

Date	Time	Location	For Directions
Tuesday, April 23	9:30 a.m.-Noon	Blue River Community College Room 100 301 East Highway 78 Independence	816-220-6532
Tuesday, April 23	1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.	Career and Technical Center Multi-purpose Room 1080 Silver Springs Road (Exit # 95) Cape Girardeau	573-334-0826
Wednesday, April 24	9:00 a.m.-Noon	Keatley Center 1202 South 28 <sup>th</sup> Street St. Joseph	816-671-4300
Wednesday, April 24	9:00 a.m.-Noon	Mill-Walk Mall Family Center Highway 291 at Highway 71 Harrisonville	816-380-7282
Thursday, April 25	9:00 a.m.-Noon	Grand River Technical Center 1200 Fair Street Chillicothe	660-646-3414
Friday, April 26	9:00 a.m.-Noon	North County Sr. High School Auditorium Raider Road (Along Highway 67) Bonne Terre	573-358-8890
Tuesday, April 30	9:00 a.m.-Noon	Days Inn Ballroom (main level) 1900 I-70 Drive Ballroom Columbia	573-445-8511
Wednesday, May 1	1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.	State Fair Community College Yeater Learning Center Media Forum Room 3201 West 16 <sup>th</sup> Street Sedalia	660-530-5800
Thursday, May 2	1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.	Cowan Civic Center 500 Elm Street Lebanon	417-532-4642
Friday, May 3	9:00 a.m.-Noon	NRTC Bowman Building 2015 North West Street Nevada	417-448-2016
Tuesday, May 7	9:00 a.m.-Noon	Kirksville Jr. High Auditorium 1515 South Cottage Grove Kirksville	660-626-1440
Tuesday, May 7	1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.	Kay Porter Theatre Poplar Bluff Senior High Campus 1300 Victory Lane Poplar Bluff	573-785-7751

Thursday, May 9	9:00 a.m.-Noon	Southwest Center for Educational Excellence 600 South Ellis, Suite B Webb City	417-673-7078
Thursday, May 9	1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.	Mountain View Community Center 125 West 1 <sup>st</sup> Street Mountain View	417-934-1111
Friday, May 10	9:00 a.m.-Noon	The Library Center, Auditorium 4653 South Campbell Springfield	417-874-8110
Tuesday, May 14	9:00 a.m.-Noon	Pike County Fairgrounds Bowling Green	573-324-2102
Wednesday, May 15	9:00 a.m.-Noon	Instructional Media Laboratory Parkway School District 12657 Fee Fee Road Creve Coeur	314-415-8134

Competitive Grants – Missouri’s Title II, D competitive funds will be used to expand eMINTS into additional districts. State agencies can develop their own, unique competitions, but must meet the intent of the law, give priority to “high-need” districts, and result in high student achievement through the use of research-based methods. The eMINTS program not only meets the rigorous criteria, but also is receiving attention nation-wide. High-need is defined as schools with the highest numbers and/or percentages of children living in poverty (based on U.S. Census data). High-need can also include schools with academic deficiencies and/or inadequate technology. Look for program details and applications to be distributed later this month.

#### TNP AND eMINTS PROGRAMS

TNP – With the recently proposed funding cuts, DESE and MOREnet staffs are looking at ways to align TNP expenses. The program will continue to focus on connectivity, but it is possible that some services and resources will be reduced, cut, or made available on a cost-recovery basis. Details will be forthcoming.

eMINTS – As with the TNP, we are also examining the eMINTS budget. With the federal funding available (see Title II, D section above), it is likely that districts will be responsible for all equipment and staff development costs. MOREnet would continue to provide the connectivity and conduct the training, but the professional development activities and assistance of the Cluster Instructional Specialists would be purchased/contracted services. We expect to distribute program details and applications later this month.

#### **Census of Technology**

The April cycle of core data collection is devoted to the Census. Now more than ever, it is critical that the Department have accurate data regarding the status of technology in schools. Data are used to set state goals, secure funding, and guide future programs and services. The Census of Technology online survey will be available on Monday, April 8. Screen 30 is the district survey; Screen 31 collects building data. Districts are to complete the screens and submit the data by April 30.

#### **E-rate Program and Internet Filtering Requirement**

##### **ERATE**

Year 4 – On March 13, the Schools and Libraries Division issued the last bi-weekly wave of funding commitment letters. Wave 15 committed over \$147.6 million, bringing the total

commitment to over \$2.25 billion in over 27,000 letters. The funding letters include discounts for Priority 2 requests (internal connections) down to the 86% discount level. Funding data is featured on the SLD website at <http://www.sl.universalservice.org/>.

Year 5 – The SLD reports that schools and libraries requested a projected \$5.736 billion in e-rate discounts for Year 5 of the program. The projected demand is more than double the \$2.25 billion available.

#### INTERNET FILTERING

Pre-enrollment packets were mailed to schools in the Department's March 20 consolidated mailing. Districts are asked to indicate whether they wish to purchase a filtering solution off the state contract and, if so, to list the desired products. Forms are to be completed and returned by April 5. Data from the forms will indicate the volume price breaks. WWT will email districts with the new prices so districts can issue POs by May 15. Data from the POs will set percentage of state subsidy to be applied and final district costs. This final pricing will be accounted for in the final invoicing. Copies of the packet contents are posted on our web site, under "from the director's desk."

#### **Education Technology Planning**

##### NEW STATE EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY PLAN

Look for the most recent draft of the Missouri Education Technology Strategic Plan, 2002-2006 to be posted on the web site on/around April 12.

#### STATE TECH PLANS

Districts are required to have board-adopted and state-adopted technology plans. The next review of district technology plans is scheduled for April 19, 2002. Plans must be submitted by no later than April 10 in order to be included in this wave of approval. Note that plans approved under the new scoring rubric will meet the new Title II, D requirements and the updated state technology plan. All districts are encouraged to review the state plan and the scoring guide, to identify the areas where the district's plan needs to be updated. This information is also needed to complete the FY03 TAG application.



#### **Show-Me TechKnowledge Day at the Capitol**

*--Submitted by Judy Miller, Chairperson*

The first annual Show-Me TechKnowledge Day at the Capitol on March 21 was a success! It was early to rise for the exhibitors since arrival time was 7:00 am at the Capitol on Thursday morning. The Capitol Rotunda with all of its painted glass, murals, marble and ornate woodwork created a beautiful backdrop for the student technology exhibits.

Students and their teachers were given Show-Me TechKnowledge logo pins that were provided by Mansfield R-IV School District. Our guest book was signed by legislators, legislative assistants, parents, business representatives, teachers, and even Capitol housekeeping. The Show-Me TechKnowledge displays impacted many senators and representatives' ideas on technology use in the curriculum. Next to our guest book we proudly displayed our Proclamation signed by Governor Holden that declared March 17-23 Student Technology Week.

The students and their teachers were eager to demonstrate their projects. Many of the state representatives and senators made time in their busy morning schedules to view the student technology projects. Several representatives were quite eager to introduce these technology savvy students to the floor of the House. Many of the students became official Pages for the Day.

The following school districts exhibited technology projects: Stockton R-I, Osage R-1, Wellsville-Middletown R-1, Bloomfield R-XIV, Gideon, Chillicothe R-II, Mansfield R-IV, St. James R-I, Ash

Grove R-IV, Kirksville R-III, Jefferson City Public Schools, Horace Mann Laboratory School, Pattonville, Dora R-III and MOREnet.

KRCG-TV 13 aired the story featuring the student exhibits at the 6:00 pm and 10:00 pm news. An informal ceremony was held after the event in which special plaques were presented to each school district for their participation in Show-Me TechKnowledge Day at the Capitol for "Outstanding Technology Exhibits."

We had great sponsorship that helped with costs, supplies or provided much of their time in volunteering for this event. Special thanks to: Missouri Educational Technology Professionals Association, Missouri Association of School Librarians, Missouri Distance Learning Association, MOREnet, SuccessLink, Burger King, Swisshelm Group, Technology Unlimited, Mid Mo Micro Computers, and Niche Productions Inc.

The Show-Me TechKnowledge event was basically planned via email...with only three committee meetings. The power of the Internet came through and proved to our committee that we can actually pull off such an event in just four months. We plan to provide this opportunity for more technology exhibits at the Capitol in future years.

Following are the Show-Me TechKnowledge committee members: Judy Miller, Chair *Technology Unlimited*; Stacy Begemann, Oak Grove R- VI & MASL; Lorna Reynolds, Stockton; Cindy Wells, Northwest, RPDC, Sally Burnett, MoDLA; Gayle Cantrell, & Bill Giddings, MOREnet/eMints, Susie Graham, Mansfield R-IV, Peggy Hitt, Bloomfield R-XIV; Kathy Parris, DESE; Sheila Perry, Bloomfield R-XIV; Jim Porter, South Central RPDC; Brian Stegeman, *Mid MO Micro*; David Stock, Osage R-II, Deborah Sutton, DESE; Claranne Vogel, DESE; Marte Bock, DESE; Nancy Gerardy, GAM; Rosalyn Wieberg, DESE.



## **METPA Spring Technology Forums**

--Submitted by Doug Allen, METPA Communication Officer

The Missouri Education Technology Professionals Association (METPA) announces two spring Technology Forums to be held at the Ike Skeleton Training Center, Missouri National Guard Headquarters, Jefferson City, Missouri. Each session will have both a morning session and a repeat of the session in the afternoon.

### **Thursday, April 18, 2002**

***Technology Funding***-- Deborah Sutton, Director of Instructional Technology, DESE, will give updates on Missouri Technology Funding—what is still there, what is gone, and what state technology dollars you can expect to receive for next year?

**Time:** 10:00 am –noon  
1:00 pm –3:00 pm

### **Tuesday, May 14, 2002**

***Copyright Issues and Technology*** (co-sponsored by Missouri Association of School Librarians (MASL))

Copyright law is everybody's business. Is your district complying with the myriad of laws regarding technology and copyright? Attend this forum to find out more information.

**Time:** 10:00 am –noon  
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm



## **Missouri Educational Technology Conference--Oct. 6-8, 2002**

*--Submitted by Eric Nicklas, Program Manager, K-12 Technology Network Program, MOREnet*

"Opening Doors Through Technology" is the theme for the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Missouri Educational Technology Conference sponsored by MOREnet (Missouri Research and Education Network) and Missouri's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Join more than 1,300 participants for over 100 presentations, workshops and hands-on demonstrations in the newest technology and techniques in the fields of education and educational technology. Visit more than 100 exhibits of the latest equipment and materials, all on display at Tan-Tar-A in Osage Beach, Missouri.

- For complete details visit the conference website:  
<http://www.more.net/services/conferences/fall2002/>.
- Find the online submission forms for conference presentations, student exhibits, and vendors at the conference website.
- Presentation proposals will be accepted until April 30.
- Missouri teachers may submit their students' technology projects for consideration as student exhibits until May 10.
- Vendors to the educational technology community are invited to apply for booth space to exhibit their products and services.
- Online registration for "Opening Doors Through Technology" will be available Aug. 12 – Sept. 20 from the conference website.

The Missouri Educational Technology Conference provides information on current technologies, solutions and future directions for educators and technology specialists



## **Preparing Teachers to Use Technology**

<http://www.iste.org/netst>

Based on the National Educational Technology Standards (NETS) for Teachers, ISTE now offers "Preparing Teachers to Use Technology," which provides resources for preservice and in-service teacher professional development across all grade levels and content areas. You can get more information about the 400-page resource, including a 17-page excerpt, table of contents, and ordering information at the web-site address above. The book is a companion to the ISTE publication Nets for Students: "Connecting Curriculum and Technology."



## **LSTC Offers Associate Degree Program For Technology Coordinators**

*--Submitted by Randy Raw, Director of Technology Services, Linn State Technical College*

NETWORKING SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY  
\* TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR OPTION  
FIRST CLASS-SUMMER 2002

Linn State Technical College (LSTC) is pleased to announce an option within its Networking Systems Technology degree for Technology Coordinators, which is focused on the needs of the rural high school and support of its technology.

### Description and Purpose:

Students choosing the Technology Coordinator option will receive an Associate of Applied Science degree upon completion of the technical and general education graduation requirements

at LSTC and cooperating institutions. This program option will begin in the summer semester 2002.

The Technology Coordinator option focuses on individuals whose career goal is to use their knowledge of networking in an educational environment. This option was developed as part of the statewide Education Renewal Zone (ERZ) Initiative, spearheaded by the Rural School and Community Trust, a national nonprofit rural education advocacy group, with funding support from the AT&T Foundation, Hearst Foundation, and State Farm. The student must have a signed agreement for a paid internship from a sponsoring high school before he/she will be accepted into the program.

Benefits for Sponsoring Schools:

- Sponsoring schools will have a committed person working in their information technology services while learning the newest technologies from a premier technical college
- The cost to the school is the intern salary. The student will be responsible for his/her educational expenses.
- The program at LSTC is focused on preparing networking systems technology students to work within an educational environment and thus will have concentrated coursework in system maintenance, Novell as an operating system, and courses related to the educational application of technology.
- Basic education courses will be taught by an accredited teacher education institution.

Who May Apply:

The program is specifically aimed at training rural K-12 Technology Coordinators. We are planning for "traditional" students from rural Missouri schools (total enrollment under 5000), but anyone is welcome to participate. Applicants must fulfill all admissions requirements of the Networking Systems Technology program (application, \$50 nonrefundable application fee, ACT, ASSET, or COMPASS scores, and official high school or GED transcript); in addition, applicants for this option must have a signed contract with his/her sponsoring school demonstrating the school's willingness to provide a paid internship for the duration of the student's enrollment in the program.

How to Get Started:

If you know a student who is interested in the program, please have them contact Michele Baker, Director of Admissions, for more information. **You may respond via email to [michele.baker@linnstate.edu](mailto:michele.baker@linnstate.edu), by telephone at 573.897.5196, or by faxing a note of interest to 573-897-5026.** We have a limited enrollment this first year and anticipate that slots will fill up quickly. Acceptance into the program is on a first-come first-served basis. Program start date is **June 10, 2002.**

**\* This program option will be offered pending Coordinating Board for Higher Education approval at it's April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.**



**Ed Week Recognizes New KCAAP Site**

<http://www.umkc.edu/kcrpdc>

The January 23 issue of *Education Week* reported the launching of the new Kansas City Area Assessment Project (KCAAP) web site. To help educators prepare students for MAP testing, the site offers a collection of assessment modules and resources organized along a framework by content area and grade range. It is a great resource for providing off-grade assessments. The Kansas City RPDC developed the project, and the Center, Independence, Kansas City, and Lee's Summit school districts were the primary contributors. Teachers from across the region also participated. Funding was provided by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and DESE.



## **Sites to Help You Survive The MAP....**

*--Submitted by Janet Shasserre, St. James School District*

Janet Shasserre created a list of helpful web sites to "Survive the MAP" for the teachers at Lucy W. James Elementary School in St. James, MO. Hopefully, other teachers in the state will also find them useful.

### **MAP Information:**

\*Central Region MAP web page

<http://tiger.coe.missouri.edu/~map/>

Performance-based items, constructed response items, and other helpful education links.

Northeast Regional MAP web page

<http://www2.truman.edu/profdev/map/maphome.html>

DESE website of MAP testing

<http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/assess/>

Provide released items, curriculum frameworks, and general information about the MAP test.

\*ETThemes MAP Test Tips

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000625.html>

### **Lessons to help with MAP:**

Project Map

<http://www.indep.k12.mo.us/pdc/MAPS/index.html>

Includes constructed response and performance events to help prepare for the map.

MAP Attack

<http://www.hazelwood.k12.mo.us/~cdavis01/map2000/toc.html>

Power point presentations to help review and get ready for the MAP test.

MAP Internet links and resources

<http://www.coe.missouri.edu/~map/edulinks/edu2.html>

A terrific list of Internet resources for all subject areas, performance assessments, rubrics, and other helpful links.

SuccessLink

<http://www.successlink.org/>

Includes lesson plans and performance assessments.

<http://successlink.org/fairgame/>

Provides an outline of objectives that may be tested in MAP.

Trackstar

<http://trackstar.hprtec.org/>

Great place to find k-12 lessons and activities that are created using the state standards.

AskERIC lesson plans

<http://www.askeric.org/Virtual/Lessons/>

eThemes: Online Resources

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/>

Provides a list of online resources, lessons, and links organized by theme, topic, and/or subject.

Graphic Organizer Generators  
[http://www.teach-nology.com/web\\_tools/graphic\\_org/](http://www.teach-nology.com/web_tools/graphic_org/)

 **eSN Special Report: Filtering and Beyond**  
<http://eschoolnews.com>

The March 2002 edition of eSchool News provided a special report on creating a total Internet management solution, "Filtering & Beyond." The report includes first-hand experiences concerning filtering solutions, managing bandwidth, and necessary human resources. It poses 6 questions to consider when choosing an Internet content solution. Go the eSN web site and request that a free copy of the report be emailed to you.

 **Digital Video On Demand**

*--Submitted by Linda Chiles, Instructional Video Coordinator, Cooperating School Districts, St. Louis, MO*

Cooperating School Districts (CSD) is now offering United Learning's complete K-12 digital online video library to member and nonmember schools across the state of Missouri. The online digital library has over 1200 educational video titles and more than 12,000 video clips. Teachers can download clips to their computers using only the material they need for a specific lesson.

The videos are correlated to the National and Missouri Show-Me Standards. Teacher guides and blackline masters are available instantly online. Searches for the video library are available via keyword search, subject area, grade level, and the Missouri Show-Me Standards.

By searching the database teachers can find videos by grade, subject and/or state standards. The videos can then be viewed immediately on the teacher's computer by downloading or streaming. Each program has been indexed and gives the instructor the opportunity to use the entire video or curriculum appropriate short clips.

United Learning has partnered with producers that include, Weston Woods, TV Ontario, Environmental Media, Rainbow Educational Media, and others. The CSD online digital library is PC and Mac friendly. It works with Windows Media Player and Quicktime.

Support is available and includes implementation training, technology support and a teacher web site. [csd.unitedstreaming.com](http://csd.unitedstreaming.com) offers administrative tools for the subscriber allowing the customizing of the site by creating user names and passwords, media packages, access reports and tracking traffic.

CSD's [unitedstreaming.com](http://csd.unitedstreaming.com) "allows teachers to capture the teachable moment, and customize their lesson plans with downloadable clips for maximum student comprehension."

If you are interested in information on CSD's United Learning digital online video library please contact: Linda Chiles at  
[lchiles@info.csd.org](mailto:lchiles@info.csd.org)

 **Rural Trust's Education Renewal Zone Initiative in Missouri**

The Rural Trust's Educational Renewal Zone (ERZ) Initiative was born out of a merger between the community-based educational philosophy of the Rural Trust, the needs of small rural schools

in Missouri, and the opportunistic positioning of Missouri's educational institutions, agencies, organizations, and infrastructure. Vicki Hobbs, consultant for the Rural Trust, gives "A First Person Account of the Rural Trust's Education Renewal Zone Initiative in Missouri" in the Rural Roots February 2002 publication. Read the complete article at [http://www.ruraledu.org/rr\\_v3no1.html#firstperson](http://www.ruraledu.org/rr_v3no1.html#firstperson)

For more information on the Rural Trust's EZR program, contact Dr. Doris Williams, Director of Capacity Building, at [Williams@ruraledu.org](mailto:Williams@ruraledu.org) or call 252-433-8844.

### **Funding Thanks**

The Rural Trust's work on Education Renewal Zone in Missouri is supported in part by generous contributions from the AT&T Foundation, the Hearts Foundation, and State Farm. Thanks to these funders, the Missouri pilot project will use technology to help link state education agencies, rural schools, teacher training institutions, and support networks to improve access to quality teaching and learning for rural children. The project eventually will be expanded into other states.



### **METPA Technology Leadership Awards**

*--Submitted by Doug Allen, METPA Communication Officer*

The Missouri Education Technology Professionals Association are accepting nominations for the 2001-2002 Technology Leadership Awards. Awards will be given for the "Best District, School or Classroom Web Page" and for the "Best Practice." Winners will be announced at the Fall 2002 Missouri Educational Technology Conference, October 6-8, 2002. Contact Doug Allen at [dallen@indep.k12.mo.us](mailto:dallen@indep.k12.mo.us) for additional information.

### **Best District, School, or Classroom Web Page Award**

Nominate your district, building or classroom web page for this annual recognition. Provide your URL on the form below for consideration.

#### **Judging Criteria:**

**Clarity of purpose:** The site clearly promotes the mission of the school or district.

**Content:** The site provides valuable content and clarity for the user.

**Organization:** The site is logically organized; navigation tools are easy and intuitive to use.

**Appearance and design:** The graphic design of the site is appealing and inviting to the end-user. Good use of graphics and layout. Can be viewed clearly on multiple platforms and multiple browsers.

**Creativity and marketing:** The site shows evidence of creativity and effective marketing of your district, school, or classroom.

**Technology:** The site loads quickly and there are no dead-end or out-of-date links.

The site is ADA compliant and takes advantage of current technologies while also allowing older browsers with few plug-ins to view the pages.

### **Best Practice Award (Best Practice in Technology Professional Development)**

Nominate your district or building for your successful implementation of a staff development effort that has led to the increased integration of technology in your school or district. Provide a summary not to exceed two pages which identifies each of the criteria below.

#### **Judging Criteria:**

**Description of activity:** A brief description of the professional development effort. Who was the target audience and what were the proposed outcomes? What were the results?

**Clarity of activity:** The effort clearly promotes the mission of the school or district and advances the effective use of instructional technology.

**Ease of replication:** This activity could be replicated at other districts or buildings with minimal problems.

Handouts or other resource materials developed: (Not counted toward two page limit.)  
Please attach any resources developed for this activity (may include links to web based resources created specifically for this professional development activity.)

Nomination Forms :

**Best District, School or Classroom Web Page Award**

Name of contact person (or person making the nomination):

Contact email address:

School District:

Phone number:

School Building (if applicable):

Web site URL:

**Best Practice Award (Best Practice in Technology Professional Development)**

Name of contact person (or person making the nomination):

Contact email address:

School District:

Phone number:

School Building (if applicable):

Staff Development activity title:

Attach all documentation for your Professional Development activity.

These awards are open to any school district or school building in Missouri. Mail nomination forms no later than May 1, 2002 to:

METPA Technology Leadership Awards

C/O Doug Allen

Independence School District

1231 S. Windsor

Independence, MO 64055



**Distance Learning Loan/Grant**

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/dlt/dlt.htm>

Applications must be postmarked no later than May 13, 2002 for a Distance Learning Loan/Grant from the USDA Rural Development. The Federal Register which was published on March 11, 2002 announces \$27 million in grants and \$300 million in loans being available. Check out the above web site for the application and the Federal Register.



**Alan Shephard Technology in Education Award**

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/resources/funding/opps.cfm#308>

Educators who demonstrate the effective use of technology in the classroom are eligible to win a laptop computer through this new program from the National Association of Education Technology Specialists (NAETS). The organization will grant its first annual Alan Shepard Technology in Education Award to an educator who has demonstrated innovation, commitment, and excellence in the teaching and development of technology programs in schools. Deadline: April 30, 2002.



**Missouri Schools in the News**

### Lee's Summit

Sharon Early, Coordinator of Library Media Services for the Lee's Summit School District is this year's recipient of the MASL Special Service Award to be presented at this year's MASL Spring Conference, April 14-16. Early currently coordinates twenty professional staff, four secretaries, and twenty-nine library support staff in the buildings and has worked for the Lee's Summit District as an elementary teacher, junior high media specialist, and district coordinator. In addition to her activities within the Lee's Summit District, Early has served in a number of elected and appointed professional positions at the local, state, and national levels. Congratulations, Sharon!

### Chillicothe R-II

Congratulations to Anne Jeschke from Chillicothe, an eMINTS teacher recently honored as the Missouri Elementary Social Studies Teacher of the Year. She was named by the Missouri Council for the Social Studies at their annual conference in March. Anne's classroom website is <http://schoolweb.missouri.edu/chillicothe.k12.mo.us/ann/> and it includes many of her links for teaching economics concepts.



## **Learning With Technology**

*--Featuring Webb City R-VII, Louisiana R-II and Willow Springs R-IV*

### **Webb City R-VII**

**P.E.A.N.U.T.S.** – Preparing Engaging Activities Naturally Utilizing Technological Strategies.  
(Grant written by Bob Collier, Director of Programs, Southwest Center for Educational Excellence)

### Overview

What do laundry soap, pancake flour, printer's ink, axle grease, and mayonnaise have in common? In P.E.A.N.U.T.S., two Southwest Missouri school districts, Webb City R-VII and Carl Junction R-I discovered their answer- they were all developed by George Washington Carver from a miracle plant- the peanut. Carl Junction R-I and Webb City R-VII have partnered with Southwest Center for Educational Excellence and the George Washington Carver National Monument to engage students and teachers effectively in the integration of technology into daily curriculum activities. These school districts have combined their talents and energies towards implementing enhanced teaching methodologies and incorporating technology (wireless laptop labs) into daily classroom activities. The end results from the integration of these two factors are: 1) Increased motivation, confidence and ability among staff members, and 2) Development of higher-order thinking skills and analytical abilities of students.

### Partners

Partners in this project include The George Washington Carver National Monument (Diamond, MO). The Carver Monument, the first designated park to an African American, is located about 20 miles from each school district. Carver, recognized as our country's first black scientist, was dedicated to his work, overcame tremendous personal difficulties, and reached international acclaim for his contributions to science. Dr. Carver exemplified strength, dedication, and intelligence and serves as a role model for both teachers and students.

Southwest Missouri has very little ethnic diversity, so the partnership with GWCNM provides resources for social studies, political science, Missouri History and math as well as various Science fields (botany and agronomy). In addition, Carver was an accomplished poet, painter and musician. Beyond the amazing story and attributes of George Washington Carver, the Monument offers curriculum related educational programs, a hands-on science discovery center and approximately 215 acres of "natural classroom." The Carver Monument, which is the actual home site of Dr. Carver, was created in 1953 by the United States (National Parks Service) as a tribute to George Washington Carver and his accomplishments in the fields of biology, chemistry and agronomy. (Website is: [coax.net/people/lwf/carver.htm](http://coax.net/people/lwf/carver.htm))

As part of the partnership and the "Parks-As-Classroom" Program, park rangers come on-site to work with workshop participants and also into the classroom for various projects. The Park offers traveling trunks, videos and many other educational resources that can be used by teachers for classroom instruction. Students will be going on field trips to the Monument this spring.

The coordinating partner for this project is Southwest Center for Educational Excellence. SCEE is an educational consortium located in Webb City, Missouri and currently serves 42 school districts (48,000 students and 4,000 teachers) and partners with two local colleges. SCEE offers professional development workshops, curriculum guides, development strategies, and technology integration assistance. (Website: [southwestcenter.org](http://southwestcenter.org))

### Teaching Strategy

Parallel efforts began in the summer of 2001 to improve the learning environment in both districts. Staff training focused on two areas of skill improvement: 1) Computer Skills Set Training and 2) Introduction and Implementation of the Engaged Learning w/Technology Methodology.

The Engaged Learning Methodology provides a framework (outline) for developing content rich, thought provoking projects that stimulate thinking and analytical abilities. The EL/T methodology provides strategies for change in classroom management. Most important is the teaching approach and interaction with students. The teacher's role becomes more of a facilitator and guide rather than an instructor.

The Engaged Learning Methodology identifies four learning actions and indicators that facilitate and promote engaged learning in the classroom. The four primary learning actions are: 1) Build Knowledge and Skills; 2) Learn Independently and With Others; 3) Demonstrate Knowledge, Ability and Creativity and 4) Manage Learning. The primary goal for instruction is to utilize thought provoking sources of instruction that encourage group collaboration, self-directed learning and higher order thinking. The students reach for answers themselves and strive for understanding and awareness.

Four teachers from each school district (a team of 2 per building) traveled to North Central Regional Educational Laboratory (a division Northern Illinois University- [ncrel.org](http://ncrel.org)) in Naperville, Illinois for a two-day training conference. Each teacher received Facilitator Training on the Engaged Learning Methodology and shown strategies for classroom management and technological implementation.

Once trained, these teachers in turn held workshops for their counterparts. Forty-five teachers participated in the collaborative workshops (a total of 540 training hours) and developed lesson plans that incorporated EL and utilized some form of technology. Teachers developed lesson plans that focused on some aspect of George Washington Carver's life. They used various technological resources to enhance the lesson plans. Upon completion, the lesson plans (besides for classroom integration) were forwarded to the Monument to be used as an educational resource in the Parks-As-Classroom Program.

### Technological Tools

With year one funding, each district received two complete wireless laptop labs. The labs included carts and printers. Wireless ports were installed in the buildings. The benefits of the portable lab are that the students have the opportunity to work in depth on a technologically oriented project. They have developed word processing, spreadsheet skills and web-research skills. These activities stimulate collaborative work, self-directed learning, higher order thinking skills and analytical abilities.

### Assessments

To measure skills and knowledge base improvement of the staff, pre-workshop and post-workshop tests have been/will be given to all participants. From the tests, areas of weaknesses will be identified and additional measures will be taken to build on needed skills. The grant's main focus is on student achievement, performance and ability, all of which will be measured by: 1) Written skills tests; 2) MAP scores and 3) Classroom projects and assignments.

### Benefits

Superintendents for both districts are focused and determined that students and staff will constantly learn to integrate various forms of technology into daily classroom activities. They realize the far-reaching benefits of utilizing technological assets and enhanced teaching strategies including a more accomplished community and higher standards of living. These two districts will be role models for the other 40 districts in our consortium. The intention is to incorporate the Engaged Learning w/Technology Methodology into all consortium districts over the next three years. Contact Jeannine Goodrich, Grant Facilitator at [jeanninegoodrich@aol.com](mailto:jeanninegoodrich@aol.com) for more information.

### Louisiana R-II

Louisiana Elementary School increased our student access to technology by purchasing fifteen Toshiba lap top computers as part of our second year TLCF grant. The laptops are kept on a rolling cart that can be easily transported from classroom to classroom. We acquired a D-Link wireless access point to connect to the Internet and printer.

Before checking the laptops out to the classrooms, teacher training covered the basic functions of the laptop. Training included activities that can be completed in the classroom. The teachers had time to share ideas and create new things. Our goal is to more thoroughly integrate technology into the curriculum by bringing the lab into the classroom.

All the students were introduced to the functions and care of the laptops in their computer classes. They were able to complete a word processing activity in the lab before the laptops came to their rooms. The button mouse was a concern for our project, but most students and teachers have embraced the challenge of this new tool. We have the conventional mouse available at all times.

When the laptops were checked out to the classrooms, the teachers had a nice surprise. Students were to have written and edited an essay before they were allowed to use the word processor on the laptop. At the beginning four students were ready. To the teachers' pleasant surprise the other students began to write and edit at a faster pace than usual. The pizzazz of the laptops has turned out to be a fantastic motivator. The flexibility of laptops lets students take more ownership in learning, which is the key to effective education and positive self-esteem. For more information contact Sharran Seabaugh at [ssseabaugh@msn.com](mailto:ssseabaugh@msn.com)

### Willow Springs R-IV

The money received from the TLCF grant has enabled the Willow Springs High School to have a computer lab in the library media center. Prior to the grant, the library had only four computers and printers for student use. We now have a smart board, projector, digital camera, laser printer, and 27 computer workstations with headphones. Finally, teachers are able to bring whole classes to the lab for word processing or research using our online resources such as EBSCO, Newsbank, Popular Science, Land and Peoples, Discovering, and Internet. Teachers are able to be more "project driven" than "textbook driven" because of the world of resources now available to them. We expect to see language arts MAP scores rising steadily as students are now more willing to write, edit, and rewrite.

Many of our Russian students live very simple lives without television or computers in their homes. School is the only chance they have to get news of the outside world and they are really taking advantage of the computer lab. They are using the computers before school, during breaks, lunch and any free time they have. They also visit Russian websites to keep up with news from their homeland.

We always have a few foreign exchange students who had to phone or write home for news. We are now able to give them e-mail accounts so parents and old friends are only a click away. It really helps cut down on homesickness.

In the Middle School, all of the teachers are utilizing the 29 new computers purchased with TLCF grant monies for the new Middle School computer lab. Instructors are helping students conduct online research, compose essays and poetry, create Power Point presentations on various topics, and learn to use databases such as EBSCOhost (magazines) and the ATHENA card catalog. The computers have opened up new teaching and learning opportunities for the Library Skills class offered in the Middle School. The ESOL teacher is one of the most frequent users of the lab, as she assists her Russian-speaking students in researching and completing regular classroom assignments.

Some of our high school and middle school teachers have developed units about inclusion and tolerance and tried them out for the first time this year. With grant money we were able to pay these teachers for the time spent developing these lessons. We also purchased videos and books for teachers to use with their students. It is still too early to see what changes may come about as a result of these lessons. Teachers say they will continue to modify and add to their plans. Hopefully, with time and effort, our students will learn to become more accepting of people who are different. We think this will cut down on school bullying and help not only the Russian community but all students to feel accepted and important in our school. For more information contact Sally Hatton or Bobbi Traver at [hambyd@wspgs.k12.mo.us](mailto:hambyd@wspgs.k12.mo.us)



### **Interactive Distance Learning in Action**

Developing an ITV cluster can be a long process. Decisions about bell schedules, calendar decisions and by-laws can all be major stumbling blocks. So, for the Blair Oaks School District in Cole County, joining a cluster that was already up and running AND the opportunity to share classes with two other consortiums seemed to make sense.

But there was still a lot of work to be done. Board meetings, interest surveys and parent meetings were conducted. The new classrooms were readied, the equipment installed and tested, and teachers trained. Once the system was up and running, students at Blair Oaks have taken coursework from two local universities-- Sociology from Central Methodist College in Fayette and English Composition from Lincoln University--and shared a physics class with students from the New Bloomfield School District. Parents and teachers were able to experience I-TV along with the district's students by participating in virtual field trips and graduate courses.

For more information about the Blair Oaks project, notify Susan Hackman 660-248-1148.



### **Professional Development Tip of the Month**

This month's Professional Development tip comes from Beccy Baldwin, principal of Pickering Elementary in the North Nodaway school district in Northwest Missouri. North Nodaway is one of five winners in the U.S. Department of Education's National Awards Program for Professional Development. Beccy's work at developing a unique schedule and focus for delivering professional development to teachers in her district is detailed at [http://www.ruraledu.org/rr\\_v3no1.html#missouri](http://www.ruraledu.org/rr_v3no1.html#missouri), The Rural Roots publication from the Rural School and Community Trust. While this month's tip is a little longer than usual, the one and a half page article is crammed with helpful information.



### **Copyright Question of the Month**

**Q.** May an educator (e.g., administrator, classroom teacher, substitute teacher, or student teacher) other district employee, volunteer, or others purchase and install an upgrade version of an existing software program and use it as a separate program?

**A.** An upgrade is intended to add features to the original software program. At no time should two versions of the same software program be installed on the same or separate machines unless individual licenses have been purchased.



## Mark Your Calendar

April	
April 1-30	School Library Media Month
1	District Technology Plans Due for State Approval
1	Newsline published online
11	MO Rural Opportunities Council Telecommunications/Education Committee Meeting (1:15-3:30 p.m.) Governor's Office Building—Room 316, Jefferson City, MO
14-20	National Library Week
18	METPA Forum "Technology Funding" <u>2 Sessions:</u> 10-12 and 1:00-3:00 p.m. Ike Skelton Training Center, Jefferson City, MO
19	Reading of District Technology Plans for State Approval
23	FGM/Title II, D Workshop (9:30 a.m. – Noon) Blue River Community College, Room 100 301 East Highway 78 Independence, MO
23	FGM/Title II, D Workshop (1:00-4:00 p.m.) Career and Technical Center Multi-purpose Room 1080 Silver Springs Road (Exit #95) Cape Girardeau, MO
24	FGM/Title II, D Workshop (9:00 a.m.-Noon) Keatley Center 1202 South 28 <sup>th</sup> Street St. Joseph, MO
24	FGM/Title II, D Workshop (9:00 a.m.-Noon) (Mill-Walk Mall Family Center Highway 291 at Highway 71 Harrisonville, MO
25	FGM/Title II, D Workshop (9:00 a.m.-Noon) Grand River Technical Center 1200 Fair Street Chillicothe, MO
25	Newsline articles due
26	FGM/Title II, D Workshop (9:00 a.m.-Noon) North County Sr. High School Auditorium Raider Road (Along Highway 67) Bonne Terre, MO
30	FGM/Title II, D Workshop (9:00 a.m.-Noon) Days Inn Ballroom (main level) 1900 I-70 Drive Ballroom Columbia, MO
May 1	Newsline published online
1	Last day to obligate funds for salaries, benefits and purchase services

1	for TAG, VIDEO, and IDL Grants FGM/Title II, D Workshop (1:00-4:00 p.m.) State Fair Community College Yeater Learning Center, Media Forum Room 3201 West 16 <sup>th</sup> Street Sedalia, MO
2	FGM/Title II, D Workshop (1:00-4:00 p.m.) Cowan Civic Center 500 Elm Street Lebanon, MO
3	FGM/Title II, D Workshop (9:00 a.m.-Noon) NRTC Bowman building 2015 North West Street Nevada, MO
7	FGM/Title II, D Workshop (9:00 a.m.-Noon) Kirksville Jr. High Auditorium 1515 South Cottage Grove Kirksville, MO
7	FGM/Title II, D Workshop (1:00-4:00 p.m.) Kay Porter Theatre Popular Bluff Senior High Campus 1300 Victory Lane Popular Bluff, MO
8	Truman's Birthday—State Holiday
9	MO Rural Opportunities Council Telecommunications/Education Committee Meeting (1:15-3:30 p.m.) Governor's Office Building—Room 316, Jefferson City, MO
9	FGM/Title II, D Workshop (9:00 a.m.-Noon) Southwest Center for Educational Excellence 600 S. Ellis, Suite B Webb City, MO
9	FGM/Title II, D Workshop (1:00-4:00 p.m.) Mountain View Community Center 125 West 1 <sup>st</sup> Street Mountain View, MO
10	FGM/Title II, D Workshop (9:00 a.m.-Noon) The Library Center, Auditorium 4653 South Campbell Springfield, MO
14	METPA Forum on "Copyright Issues and Technology" <u>2 Sessions</u> : 10-12 and 1:00-3:00 p.m. Ike Skelton Training Center, Jefferson City, MO
14	FGM/Title II, D Workshop (9:00 a.m.-Noon) Pike County Fairgrounds Bowling Green, MO
15	FER's for TAG, VIDEO and IDL Grants due
15	FGM/Title II, D Workshop (9:00 a.m.-Noon) Instructional Media Laboratory Parkway School District 12657 Fee Fee Road Creve Coeur, MO
25	Newsline articles due
27	Memorial Day—State Holiday

## ◆ Upcoming 2002 Conferences

April 5-9	National Association of Elementary School Principals Annual Convention San Antonio, Texas <a href="http://www.naesp.org">www.naesp.org</a>
April 6-9	National School Boards Association Annual Convention New Orleans, LA <a href="http://www.nsba.org/conferences/">www.nsba.org/conferences/</a>
April 8-12	U.S. Distance Learning Association E-Learning Conference Washington, D.C. <a href="http://www.usdla.org">www.usdla.org</a>
April 14-16	Missouri Association of School Librarians (MASL) Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO
April 14-16	Distance Education and Training Council Annual Conference Denver, Colorado <a href="http://www.detc.org">www.detc.org</a>
April 14-17	National Association of Federal Education Program Administrators Annual Conference Arlington, Virginia <a href="http://www.nafepa.org">www.nafepa.org</a>
April 24-25	HELIX Conference Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO MERC (Missouri Education & Research Consortium) HELIX (Higher Ed Learning & Information Exchange Conference)
June 17-19	Teaching and Learning Conference Holiday Inn Select, Columbia, MO
June 17-19	NECC 2002: Nexus in Texas San Antonio, Texas <a href="http://www.neccsite.org">http://www.neccsite.org</a>
October 6-8	Missouri Educational Technology Conference Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO Missouri Research and Education Network
October 13-15	Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education Joint Iowa ASCD ITEC Conference Des Moines, IA <a href="http://www.itec-ia.org">www.itec-ia.org</a>

## ◆ From the Mailbag

### Professional Development Quicktips

<http://www.techlearning.com/content/outlook/pdq>

Have an implementation problem? Check out PDQ for new ideas every day and an archive of great strategies.

### Assistive Technology for Learning

<http://www.publiceducation.org/cgi-bin/downloadmanager/publications/p95.asp>

Assistive technology can give students with different learning styles or abilities the tools they need for active learning. An article from the Public Education Network, "Helping Kids Learn With Assistive Technology," presents some examples of devices that help children with disabilities learn more effectively and help schools meet IDEA requirements.

### E-Rate Demand Outpaces The Money Supply

<http://www.sl.universalservice.org>

The schools and Libraries Division (SLD) reports that schools and libraries had requested a projected \$5.736 billion in E-rate discounts for Year 5 of the program. The projected demand is more than double the \$2.25 billion available.

Source: Schools and Libraries Division

### **TEAMS Distance Learning—Assessment and Evaluation**

<http://teams.lacoe.edu/documentation/places/assessment.html>

Assessment seems to be close to everyone's mind as we grapple with multiple measures, authentic assessment, and upcoming standardized tests. We are constantly using assessment of one form or another to help guide our lesson planning, evaluate our teaching practices, and to determine student learning. Now that we are beyond the halfway point through the school year it's time to re-evaluate how we are doing. Are students really learning those grade level benchmarked standards? How can we help them grasp what's expected? Check out the TEAMS Assessment and Evaluation links at the web address above.

### **Financial Literacy**

Congress recently appropriated funding for "financial literacy" education in the new Education Bill. Financial responsibility, entrepreneurship, and money-management are all funding priorities for a variety of government agencies involved in youth initiatives. Research has shown a correlation between entrepreneurship and increases in public school students' grades (see [www.YoungBiz.com](http://www.YoungBiz.com) and the Rasheed Study). The first Summit on Financial Literacy is scheduled for April 11-13, 2002, in Atlanta, GA. Mark Victor Hansen (CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL) will be the keynote in addition to 30 other speakers and funding agencies. Call 888-543-7929 X15 for more details.

### **Maps for the World**

<http://www.wired.com/news/culture/0,1284,50785,00.html>

David Rumsey's decision to put his private map collection online has resulted in an extraordinary compilation of more than 6,500 high-resolution digital images. Rumsey's ultimate goal is to digitize 50,000 maps in the next five years and eventually include interactive 3-visualization tools. Source: Wired News

### **Worldwide Children's Projects Honored**

<http://www.childnetawards.org/english/index.html>

Childnet International has recently announced the winners of its annual Childnet awards program, which recognizes children (and those working with them) who are developing innovative Internet projects to benefit other children worldwide.

Source: Childnet International

### **The Discovery Center**

[www.discoverycenter.org](http://www.discoverycenter.org)

The Discovery Center of Springfield is excited to offer classes through videoconferencing to your school. Classes come with a kit of manipulatives that are used during the class and a curriculum that has pre, during, and post link activities. All classes are developed using the Missouri Frameworks for Curriculum Development in Science.

As a part of the pilot project, these classes are free of charge until June 2002. In return you fill out the evaluation of the videoconference and mail them back in and take part in a short phone interview with outside evaluators

Currently, the focus is on Elementary and Middle School, however the classes below can be tailored to a higher level or develop new ones based on need. New courses and kits are being added as they are developed.

Listed below are the classes currently being offered and can be tailored for grades K-4 or 5-8:

1. Rocket Science: Propulsion Basics
2. Bridging Forces: Creating Strength in Structures
3. To the Moon and Beyond: Moon Phases and How We Got There
4. The Optics of Light and Color: Light Waves and How We See
5. Chemistry Capers: Interacting Acids and Bases, States of Matter
6. Circuitry City: Understanding Energy Flow
7. Magnet Mania: Attractive and Repulsive Forces
8. Biology Bash: Investigations in Biology (built to order)
9. Experiments in Earth Science: Explore Rocks, Gems, Minerals, and Plate Tectonics
10. Ecology Exploration: Looking at Food Webs, Food Chains, Diversity and the Environment
11. Stash the Trash: Explore the Impact of Pollution and the "4R's" Reduce, Recycle, Refuse, Reuse
12. An Introduction to The International Space Station: An Overview to the Wonders of the ISS (no kit, just presentation)

For more information contact Justine Lines, Distance Learning Coordinator, at [jliles@discoverycenterofspringfield.org](mailto:jliles@discoverycenterofspringfield.org)  
417-862-9910 ext. 705

### **Verizon Children's Literacy netWorkspace (VCLN)**

If you are a teacher, librarian or just someone who would like to help children and youth develop literacy skills, learn more about the Verizon Children's Literacy netWorkspace: a web environment to support reading, writing, sharing and having fun with literacy.

The Verizon Children's Literacy netWorkspace (VCLN) is a learning community on the Internet, of students and sponsors who share an interest in reading and writing. VCLN is a password protected environment for safe and appropriate communication and sharing among the members. Teachers, librarians, and other literacy sponsors will develop clubs to encourage and support reading and writing activities. VCLN is being designed as an active, fun environment where all children are respected, supported, and engaged in literacy development activities. Students will be enrolled by their teachers or librarians and have an opportunity to join clubs that match their interests and needs.

Reading clubs will allow members to discuss their readings in forums and in chat sessions. In addition, club sponsors may run games, challenges, or simply facilitate good discussion. Reading clubs may be organized about authors, titles, topics, or genres.

Writing clubs will allow members to share their writing, collaborate on writing projects, receive help with their writing, and participate in games and challenges. Writing clubs may be organized about topics, skills, genres, or other interests.

Sponsors are encouraged to bring creative ideas for clubs, such as contests, challenges and other ways to engage children in literacy activities.

A pilot program will be run in the Spring of 2002, starting in early April and running to late May. During this time, we hope to enroll approximately 200 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade children for the pilot period. We anticipate an implementation for 3<sup>rd</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> graders in August 2002.

**Key features:** The pilot program will use Shadow netWorkspace (SNS)<sup>TM</sup> (<http://sns.internetschools.org>) to support reading, writing, sharing and having fun with literacy. SNS enables children to join clubs and then facilitates communication, sharing and collaboration among the club members.

All clubs will have a club room (workspace), discussion boards, talk (synchronous "members-only" chat tool), messaging, and shared file space.

An online document editor (Shadowdoc) will allow members to create, share, and collaborate on writing projects.

All members will have a profile document for sharing information about themselves.

All clubs will have a profile document for sharing information about the purpose and activities of the club.

Clubs may have either open enrollment, allowing any VCLN member to join or moderated enrollment, allowing any VCLN member to request to join, but acceptance into the club is determined by the club sponsor.

Sponsors Needed for Literacy Club--We are seeking approximately 20 sponsors for the pilot program to provide online literacy clubs for children. Sponsors will facilitate and monitor club activity. Most clubs will be (1) reading-discussion groups about books, (2) writing clubs for children to write and share their work, or (3) contests where children might compete in literacy scavenger hunts or writing contests. Sponsors with ideas for special types of clubs or special activities are encouraged. Sponsors with some experience using computers and Internet tools such as email and web browsing are sought, but all sponsors will receive support and can request training.

Sponsors activities may include a wide variety of electronic communication with children, including the use of discussion boards, chat sessions, email and messages, as well as reading and writing of online documents (stories, articles, reports, etc.). Sponsors could work from home at any hour to support the web-based clubs. We estimate that sponsoring a fairly-active club may require 5 hours per week. Teachers and Librarians can enroll children or sponsor a group by contacting Dr. Jim Laffey, [LaffeyJ@missouri.edu](mailto:LaffeyJ@missouri.edu).

### **SIGTel Online Learning Awards**

Are you and your students involved in an original, online learning activity? If so, you may wish to enter the "2002 SIGTel Online Learning Awards." Since 1991, the Special Interest Group for TeleLearning (SIGTel), a division of the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), has recognized creative teachers for their pioneering use of telecommunication networks to provide learning opportunities for students from kindergarten through college (grades K-16).

Winning project authors will receive a certificate honoring their achievement. They will be awarded a one-year membership in the Special Interest Group for TeleLearning and the International Society for Technology in Education. They will also receive invitations to present their activity plans at the national Educational Computing Conference (NECC 2002) in San Antonio and may receive the opportunity to participate in a session at an ISTE Affiliate International Conference. SIGTel will publish the winning entries, and the respective authors' reflections, on its online publication, the SIGTel Bulletin, and archive their work as exemplary projects on the SIGTel web site. Contributors will be welcome to participate in the NECC presentation but only the author will receive the other awards.

PLEASE NOTE: All entries must describe telecomputing activities that will be completed by June 1, 2002. The SIGTel panel of judges will announce the winning entries and honorable mentions April 15, 2002. The reflections for the awarded activity plans will need to be submitted by July 1, 2002. Entries must be submitted via electronic mail before the April 1, 2002. If you have any additional questions, please contact the contest coordinator, Sally Bair, [sbair@epix.net](mailto:sbair@epix.net)



### **Internet Sites of Interest**

### Spring

KidsGardening.com: Teacher's Resource Room

<http://www.kidsgardening.com/teachers.asp>

Monarch Watch: Spring Migration

<http://www.monarchwatch.org/tagmig/spring.htm>

Major League Baseball Kids' Dugout

[http://www.mlb.com/NASApp/mlb/mlb/kids/mlb\\_kids.jsp](http://www.mlb.com/NASApp/mlb/mlb/kids/mlb_kids.jsp)

Kids Domain: Spring Crafts

<http://www.kidsdomain.com/craft/spring.html>

Massachusetts Maple Producers: Everything About Maple Syrup!

<http://www.massmaple.org>

The Great Backyard Bird Count

Bird Identification Guide

<http://birdsource.tc.cornell.edu/gbbc/birdid/index.html>

April is National Poetry Month

Poetry.com

<http://www.poetry.com>

PBS Presents Fooling With Words (grades 9-12)

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/foolingwithwords/>

Poetry 180: A Poem a Day for American High Schools

<http://www.loc.gov/poetry/180/>

Poetry Express

<http://www.poetryexpress.org>

Jeopardy

[http://www.meadowthorpe.fcps.net/powerpoint\\_jeopardy\\_template.htm](http://www.meadowthorpe.fcps.net/powerpoint_jeopardy_template.htm)

Internet Safety

<http://Disney.go.com/cybersafety/index.html>

This site can be used to teach students about Internet safety

<http://www.media-awareness.ca/eng/>

Internet safety site for students, parents and teachers.

Newest eThemes

Missouri: State Flag

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000637.html>

These sites help students identify and learn about state flags, specifically focusing on the Missouri state flag. Includes lesson plans, activities, interactive quizzes, coloring pages, and lots of computer-made pictures of the Missouri flag and other state flags. Also, includes information about flag designer Marie Elizabeth Oliver.

Shoes

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000639.html>

These sites have lots of information about the history of shoes, along with lesson plans with activity ideas relating to shoes. There are interactive sites, audio and video, numerous pictures, and information on all types of shoes.

#### Human Body: Five Senses

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000641.html>

These sites cover the five senses of sight, smell, taste, touch, and hearing. Includes information about the different body organs that our senses use and the unique senses of animals. There are class activity ideas and an online game about the senses. Includes link to an eThemes Resource on Disability awareness.

#### Literature: "Trouble River" by Betsy Byars

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000629.html>

These sites include suggested activities for the book as well as biographies about author Betsy Byars. There is also information about the book's themes of pioneer life and rafting.

#### Animals: Birds

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000640.html>

These sites include information about several different types of birds, including a gallery of the official state birds. Learn about their physical characteristics and habitats and listen to their calls. View photos, short videos, and live Webcams. Includes links to eThemes Resources on barn owls, raptors, and penguins.

#### Solar System: Comets

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000631.html>

These sites about comets cover the history, composition, orbits and characteristics of comets. Includes photographs, video clips, hands-on activities, and online games and quizzes. There is also a link to an eThemes resource on planets in the solar system.

#### Earth's Atmosphere

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000595.html>

these sites are about the Earth's atmosphere and its layers. See pictures, diagrams, and a video, and then try the interactive quizzes. Includes a link to an eThemes Resource on the ozone layer, which is part of the stratosphere layer.

#### Folktales: Fairy Tales

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000449.html>

These sites offer many online fairy tales, plus ideas for studying and writing fairy tales. Read classic tales and new versions. Includes links to eThemes Resources on Fables and Tall Tales.

#### Literature: "Dear Mr. Henshaw" by Beverly Cleary

<http://emints.more.net/ethemes/resources/S00000586.html>

Hands-on and online activities about the book "Dear Mr. Henshaw" by Beverly Cleary. Includes links to eThemes Resources on Beverly Cleary and letter writing.

